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LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for evaluating workload across a processing environment having a plurality of computer systems each having a plurality of assigned workload units comprising the steps of:

assigning a plurality of impact values, one impact value for each workload unit assigned for each of the plurality of computing systems in a processing environment having a plurality of computer systems each having a plurality of assigned workload units, wherein said assigning of each impact value comprises determining a change in system expiration date should a workload unit be removed from the system; and

assessing the workload based on said impact values.

2. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the change in system expiration date is determined based on system life expectancy.

3. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the change in system expiration date is determined based on capacity space.

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4. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising sorting said workload units based on said impact values into a sorted impact list.

5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising altering the workload in the processing environment to change expiration dates of at least two of said plurality of computer systems.

6. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising comparing the expiration date of each of said plurality of computing systems to at least one target planning date for servicing each of said plurality of computing systems.

7. (original) The method of Claim 6 further comprising altering the workload in the processing environment to change the expiration date relative to the target planning date for at least two of said plurality of computer systems.

8. (original) The method of Claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

creating a From list of computer systems for which the expiration date precedes the at least one planning date;

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creating a To list of computer systems for which the expiration date is later than said at least one planning date; and

reassigning workload units from computer systems on said From list to computer systems on said To list based on said impact values.

9. (original) The method of Claim 8 further comprising calculating new expiration dates for computer systems on said From and said To lists after said reassigning.

10. (currently amended) Apparatus for evaluating workload across a processing environment having a plurality of computer systems each having a plurality of assigned workload units comprising:

an administrative processor comprising:

an impact value component for assigning a plurality of impact values, one impact value for each workload unit assigned to each of the plurality of computing systems in a processing environment having a plurality of computer systems each having a plurality of assigned workload units, wherein said assigning of each impact value comprises determining a change in system expiration date should a workload unit be removed from the system; and

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a processing component for assessing the workload based on said impact values.

11. (original) The apparatus of Claim 10 further comprising at least one storage location accessible by the administrative processor for storing data relating to said plurality of computer systems.

12. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by machine tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for evaluating workload across a processing environment having a plurality of computer systems each having a plurality of assigned workload units, said method comprising the steps of:

assigning a plurality of impact values, one impact value for each workload unit assigned for each of the plurality of computing systems of a processing environment having a plurality of computer systems each having a plurality of assigned workload units, wherein said assigning of each impact value comprises determining a change in system expiration date if a workload unit is removed from the system; and

assessing the workload based on said impact values.

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13. (original) The device of Claim 12 wherein the method further comprises sorting said workload units based on said impact values into a sorted impact list.

14. (original) The device of Claim 12 wherein the method further comprises altering the workload in the processing environment to change the expiration dates of at least two of said plurality of computer systems.

15. (original) The device of Claim 12 wherein the method further comprises comparing the expiration date of each of said plurality of computing systems to at least one target planning date for servicing each of said plurality of computing systems.

16. (original) The device of Claim 15 wherein the method further comprises altering the workload in the processing environment to change the expiration date relative to the target planning date for at least two of said plurality of computer systems.

17. (original) The device of Claim 16 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

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creating a From list of computer systems for which the expiration date precedes the at least one planning date;

creating a To list of computer systems for which the expiration date is later than said at least one planning date; and

reassigning workload units from computer systems on said From list to computer systems on said To list based on said impact values.

18. (original) The device of Claim 17 wherin the method further comprises calculating new expiration dates for computer systems on said From and said To lists after said reassigning.

19. (original) The device of Claim 12 wherein the change in system expiration date is determined based on system life expectancy.

20. (original) The device of Claim 12 wherein the change in system expiration date is determined based on capacity space.